
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



SAFETY NEWS

Mike Huckabee, Governor

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James L. Salkeld, Director



DIRECTOR OF LABOR JAMES L. SALKELD HONORED BY GOVERNOR AS WELL AS SAFETY EMPLOYEES

While the employees of the Arkansas Department of Labor's Safety Division recently acknowledged our Director of Labor James L. Salkeld for his enthusiastic support of their programs (above), Governor Mike Huckabee paid him an even bigger honor by reappointing him to his job! On November 22, 2004, Director Salkeld was sworn in for another term, thus making him the longest serving director in the 91 year history of the department, and the only one to have served three governors.

Prior to being appointed Director by Governor Bill Clinton in 1991, Mr. Salkeld was business manager of Local 295 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and a member of the executive board of the state AFL-CIO. He also served by appointment of the governor on the state Job Training Coordinating Council. He was president of the Arkansas State Electrical Workers Association and president of the Central Arkansas Building and Construction Trades Council.

Mr. Salkeld has accomplished much during his years as Director of Labor including being instrumental in starting the annual Labor-Management
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CIBA SPECIALTY CHEMICALS AIMING FOR VPP

by Britt Howard

The Ciba Specialty Chemicals plant in West Memphis took a formal stance against injuries and illnesses at its facility several months ago by adopting the VPP method of safety and health programming.

The West Memphis site has been challenged with assorted injuries over the years, but has made some significant improvements in safety and health programming and hazard analysis/control. Now a formal agreement between local management and the local union leadership (PACE Local 5-714) to adopt the basic principles of VPP has been reached, and is now a significant step towards fine tuning the site safety and health program. Site Manager Mike McFarlane and Pace Local 5-714 president David Brown jointly signed a ceremonial agreement in principle.

"The site has some great EH&S programs in place, but we have
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THE LITTLE TRAIN THAT COULD...

How much difference can one training class make? Just ask the person whose life has been saved by someone who knew CPR. Or ask that employee who went home from work with both arms because he used something he learned in a class that kept him from harm when machinery malfunctioned that day. Or ask the employee who is suffering from a back injury because of a bad fall that could have been prevented had his company had training. A little training CAN go a long way!

And training is one of the things our Safety Division is all about! Below are the tentative training classes already planned for the year 2005. If you are interested in getting more information about these classes, just call or e-mail the individuals listed below each list.

PREVENTING OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES SEMINARS

Location	Date	Location	Date
Pine Bluff	Mar. 17	Little Rock	Mar. 31
Fort Smith	Apr. 20-21	Hope	Apr. 28
Russellville	May 19	West Memphis	June
El Dorado	July 28	Bentonville	Aug. 11
Ashdown	Aug. 17	Jonesboro	Sept. 21
Monticello	Oct. 6	Crossett	Oct. 24
Batesville	undecided		

(contact Judy Harwell at 501-682-9092 or e-mail harwell.judy@dol.gov)

BLASTING TRAINING CLASSES

Class	Date	Location
40 Hour Class	Feb. 14-18	Little Rock
40 Hour Class	June 13-17	Fort Smith
20 Hour Class	Mar. 15-17	Little Rock
20 Hour Class	Apr. 12-14	Fort Smith
20 Hour Class	May 17-19	Little Rock
20 Hour Class	July 12-14	Fort Smith
8 Hour Refresher Class	Feb. 24	Little Rock
8 Hour Refresher Class	Mar. 2	Fort Smith
8 Hour Refresher Class	Apr. 6	Little Rock
8 Hour Refresher Class	May 4	Fort Smith
8 Hour Refresher Class	June 8	Little Rock
8 Hour Refresher Class	July 6	Fort Smith
8 Hour Refresher Class	Oct. 26	Little Rock
8 Hour Refresher Class	Nov. 2	Fort Smith

(contact Bob Cook 479-754-9177 or Mike Watson 501-690-8774 or e-mail mike.watson@arkansas.gov)

PREVENTING OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Location	Date	Location	Date
Dermott	February	Hot Springs	Mar. 29-30
Monticello	May 4	Jonesboro	May 26
Fort Smith	June 8	Hot Springs	June 16
Mena	June 22	Batesville	August
Hope	Sept. 20	Little Rock	Oct. 27
West Memphis	Apr. 14		

(call Richard Steward at 501-682-4521 or e-mail richard.steward@arkansas.gov)

STATE'S AMUSEMENT RIDES SAFE

During fiscal year 2003-04, 289 inspection reports were issued covering 2,970 individual amusement rides and attractions in Arkansas. And more than 860 violations were cited for correction at these facilities.

"The number of amusement ride inspections has continued to increase over the last ten years," says Mike Watson, AOSH Supervisor and Chief Amusement Ride Inspector. The team of eight inspectors at the Arkansas Department of Labor is nationally certified by the National Association of Amusement Ride Inspectors.

"We have such a great safety record here in Arkansas because of our law," adds Watson. "Each time a ride is set up it is inspected, thus allowing us to find any damage that may have occurred during operation, tear down, or over the road transport. We are fortunate to have good companies who play our state. They are concerned about patron safety, welcome our inspections, and begin repairs immediately. If a problem cannot be fixed before opening time, the ride is red-tagged until the repairs are made and a final inspection is conducted."

There were only two incidents reported this past year; one serious incident which involved a broken ankle and was classified as patron error, and one minor incident requiring first aid.

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lacked total employee participation. We feel that this agreement will bring a stronger across the board participation by employees in their safety awareness, participation in safety initiatives, and a reduction in accidents, injuries, and spills," said Britt Howard, the site's EH&S Manager. "I feel that this site will be a true leader in industrial safety and health programming because we have great resources and leadership." He cited the fact the plant has strong technical support from the company's global safety and health network and national based experts to draw upon, plus a strong nucleus of site employees that want to improve all aspects of the existing safety program.

The site is looking forward to submitting an application for VPP certification in 18-24 months.



STATE AND NATIONAL WORKPLACE FATALITIES STUDIED

Arkansas had 87 workplace fatalities in 2003 according to the National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries conducted by the Arkansas Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Transportation incidents led all other events resulting in fatalities for the tenth year in a row. In 2003, transportation accounted for 48 injuries, or 55 percent, of the 87 fatalities.

The biggest decrease in fatalities came from exposure to harmful substances and environments which dropped from 10 in 2002 to 4 in 2003. Assaults and violent acts were down from seven to six; and falls were also down from 15 in 2002 to 10 in 2003.

The Contact with Objects or Equipment category showed an increase in fatalities from nine in 2002 to 16 in 2003.

Wage and salary workers accounted for 80 of the fatalities in Arkansas in 2003, and men accounted for 82.

The 25 to 54 year old age group accounted for 60 of the fatalities, up from 55 in 2002.

The occupational category with the most fatalities in Arkansas was

Operators, Fabricators, and Laborers, which accounted for 38 of the fatalities, up from 35 in 2002. Farming, Forestry and Fishing also showed an increase from 10 to 13.

Nationwide, there were a total of 5,559 fatal work injuries recorded in 2003, a small increase from the revised total of 5,534 reported for 2002. The rate at which fatal work injuries occurred in 2003 was 4.0 fatalities per 100,000 workers, unchanged from 2002.

Fatal work injuries resulting from highway incidents, falls, and electrocutions were all lower in 2003, while fatalities involving homicides, fires and explosions, and being struck by objects increased.

Fatal highway incidents were down in 2003 for the second consecutive year, but continued to account for the highest number of fatal work injuries, 1,350.

The number of workplace homicides was higher in 2003 – the first increase since 2000. Despite the higher total, the 631 workplace homicides recorded in 2003 represented a 42 percent decline from the high of 1,080 workplace homicides recorded in 1994.

For more information on state or national occupational injuries, illnesses, or fatalities, contact Leon Cornett at the OSH/CFOI Division of the Arkansas Department of Labor, (501) 682-4542 or e-mail CornettL@bls.gov

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Conference which is now in its sixth year. He has been recognized by federal OSHA, as well as several business and safety associations for his dedication and efforts to improve occupational safety and health in the state. Under his leadership, the state's incidence rate of occupational injuries and illnesses has decreased for ten consecutive years, with an average of 9.7 cases reported in 1993 and an average of 5.7 cases in 2002. This is according to the latest data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics based on every 100 full-time workers.

During Mr. Salkeld's term, Arkansas became the first state in the nation to have a state-level association of participants in OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program. He has also led efforts to increase participation in the Safety and Health Achievement and Recognition Program (SHARP), a federal recognition and exemption program that provides incentives and support to smaller, high-hazard employers to develop, implement and continuously improve effective safety and health programs at their worksites.

Additionally, Mr. Salkeld has worked to improve enforcement in all areas within the agency's jurisdiction. His leadership has been instrumental in strengthening laws relating to

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JAMES L. SALKELD, DIRECTOR

JEANETTE DONAHUE, EDITOR

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electrical safety and licensing; prevailing wage rates on public construction projects; and blasting and amusement ride inspections. He has also served on the State Apprenticeship Steering Committee, the Veteran's Preference Board and the National Association of Governmental Labor Officials Executive Board.



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ANNUAL ARKANSAS MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH CONFERENCE 2005

**February 3-4, 2005
Clarion Resort on the Lake
Hot Springs, Arkansas**



The conference is a cooperative effort of the Arkansas Department of Labor, Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration, and mining industries in Arkansas. The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for the mining community to focus on mine safety and health concerns. There will be sessions on the most frequently reported accidents, Part 50, Personal Protective Equipment, electrical safety, safety behavior, an MSHA update and more.

For more information on the conference and registration, contact Bonita Stocks at (501) 682-4520 or e-mail bonita.l.stocks@arkansas.gov